



# News Release

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## **Water lines break in three communities; boil water advisories issued**

**OLYMPIA** — Water main breaks in three communities have left some customers without water.

The water issues affect the City of Port Townsend in Jefferson County, the City of Kalama in Cowlitz County, and the Forest Grove Mobile Home Park in Snohomish County. About 15,000 people are affected in all.

State health officials advise customers without water to use purchased bottled water. Those who have water service can either use bottled water or boil tap water to use for drinking, brushing teeth, washing dishes, preparing food, and making ice. Tap water should be boiled for one minute and allowed to cool before use.

### ***Port Townsend***

In Port Townsend, a 12-inch main on Water St. broke earlier today, causing a water outage that extended for three city blocks. The city is receiving reports of brown tap water in other areas. The discoloration is likely caused by iron sediment in the water lines. However, when water lines break, contaminants can be drawn into the system.

The advisory affects about 6,000 homes and businesses in the Jefferson County community. The state Department of Health and the Jefferson County Health Department are working with the city to resolve the issue. Restaurants are being asked to close until the health advisory ends. Schools and assisted-living facilities must use modified meal preparation plans and hospitals have been notified to follow drinking water emergency procedures.

Port Townsend officials are asking customers with brown tap water to run their cold water taps until the water runs clear so they don't get sediment in their hot water tanks. The health advisory

will remain in effect until repairs are made and tests show the water is safe to drink. It will take at least a day to get water sample results back, possibly longer.

“Protecting the health of our customers is our number one priority,” said Ken Clow, city public works director. “The crew is working diligently to repair the water main and get the system back in service.”

Customers who have questions may call the city at 360-379-5096.

### ***City of Kalama***

In Kalama a major water main break drained the city’s main storage reservoir early this morning, leaving customers without water. The city hopes to restore water service to all customers tonight. A boil water advisory will remain in effect until further notice.

Customers may check for updates on the [City of Kalama’s Web site](http://www.cityofkalama.com) (www.cityof kalama.com) or call 360-673-3706.

### ***Forest Grove Mobile Home Park***

The 69 residents of this small mobile home park northwest of Marysville have been out of water for several days because frozen pipes caused a water main break. When water service is restored, residents will need to boil their tap water until further notice.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov">http://www.doh.wa.gov</a> for a healthy dose of information.
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